and reforms in land and labour markets also remain high on the agenda of the Government.

NPA of Banks

84. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government propose to take for speedy recovery of debts by banks and financial institutions to deal with non-performing assets of over Rs. 1,00,000 crores;

(b) the value of NPA of banks on 31st March, 2000 and the same on 31st March, 2002; and

(c) the number of cases of recovery of debts by banks pending as on 31st March, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) Government of India and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have advised the banks and financial institutions to take several steps for recovery of dues such as evolving and implementation of recovery policy by banks, compromise settlement through Settlement Advisory Committees, filing of suits with Civil Courts, filing of cases with Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs). The banks have been advised to use the forum of Lok Adalat for compromise settlement. RBI in July, 2000 had also introduced non-discretionary and non-discriminatory One Time Settlement Scheme for NPAs upto Rs. 5 crore. Further to facilitate foreclosures and enforcement of securities in cases of default and to enable the banks and financial institutions to realize their dues, recently, "The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Ordinance, 2002" has been promulgated.

Credit Information Bureau has also been set up to disseminate information on borrowers to the Banks. Corporate Debt Restructuring (CDR) scheme has been put in place to provide a transparent mechanism for restructuring of corporate debts of viable entities facing problems due to internal and external factors. A company *viz.* "Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd." has been incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956.

(b) The gross non-performing assets of scheduled commercial banks as at the end of March, 2000 was Rs. 63,883 crore and at March, 2002 Rs. 68,074 crore (provisional).

(c) According to the available information 35,871 cases were pending with the Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) as on 31st March, 2002. In addition, 1514 cases are pending in BIFR and 61 cases are pending in AAIFR as on 31st March, 2002.

Imported goods under Vigilance Rules

85. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Vigilance Commission has written to the Central Board of Excise and Customs (C.B.E.C.) to allow valuation of imported goods to be brought under Vigilance Rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons adduced by the C.V.C. in support thereof;

(c) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has also raised the matter in its latest report;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the decision taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The Central Vigilance Commission has not tendered any such advice.

(c) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Widening of Tax-Net

86. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to introduce new rules to widen the tax-net and plug rampant tax evasion in the country as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 30th May, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the new rules are likely to be put in place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal as of now to introduce any new rules to widen the tax-net.